Winter Woods

WHOOSH!
COME ON! HURRY!!

CREAK
WASH

THUD
WHEW

??
TAP
TAP
WHAT RE YOU DOING?
LET S GO

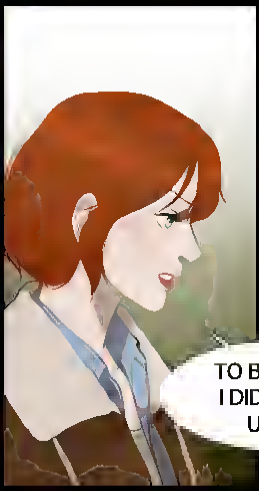
I CAN'T GO WITH YOU, JANE.
!!!

I MUST GO HOME.

HUBERT TOLD ME THAT NO ONE IS EVER KIND OR GENEROUS WITHOUT EXPECTING SOMETHING IN RETURN.
I KNOW YOU'LL JUST USE ME LIKE EVERYONE ELSE EVENTUALLY.

I, WELL...
UH...
I...
UM..

SIGH
YOU'RE RIGHT.


TO BE HONEST, I DID WANT TO USE YOU.

WELL, NO! NOT USE YOU!
...???
I MEAN, I JUST WANTED YOU TO TELL ME YOUR STORY.

AND THEN TODAY...
WELL.
TODAY I MET YOU.
AND YOU SEEMED INTERESTING. AND YOU'LL HAVE AN AMAZING STORY FOR ME. NOT JUST BECAUSE OF YOUR. UM. UNIQUE APPEARANCE.

I'M A WRITER.
I WRITE KIDS STORIES
AND STUFF...

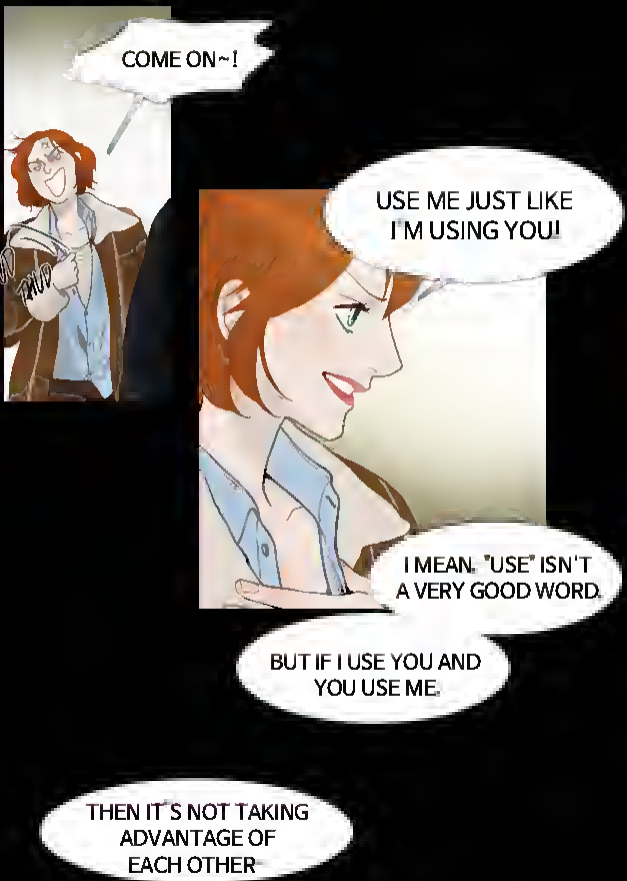
BUT I JUST CAN'T
SEEM TO THINK OF ANY
GOOD STORIES LATELY.

GOODBYE, JANE.
AAAAHH!!
WAIT WAIT WAIT!!

WHAT'S SO HARD ABOUT TELLING ME A LITTLE STORY?
AND IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE YOU HAVE ANYWHERE ELSE TO GO!!
BLOCK
I'M RIGHT, AREN'T I?

IN RETURN FOR ME TAKING CARE OF YOU, YOU JUST HAVE TO TELL ME YOUR STORY!
JUST UNTIL THIS SPRING!
.....

YOU CAN STAY HERE UNTIL IT GETS WARMER OUTSIDE!!
YEAH! YOU'LL GET FREE FOOD AND A SHELTER!!
.....
AND.. CLOTHES!!


COME ON~!
THUD
THUD
USE ME JUST LIKE I'M USING YOU!
I MEAN, "USE" ISN'T A VERY GOOD WORD.
BUT IF I USE YOU AND YOU USE ME,
THEN IT'S NOT TAKING ADVANTAGE OF EACH OTHER

IT BECOMES
"HELPING"
EACH OTHER!

YOU'RE FULL OF IT!
JUMP

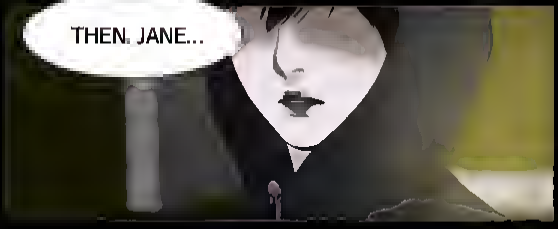
PLUS IT'S FREEZING COLD OUTSIDE..
AHA!
THAT'S IT!!
JUST STAY HERE TILL SPRING!!

STOP TRYING TO ACT LIKE YOU ARE HELPING US!!
YOU'RE JUST USING HIM!!

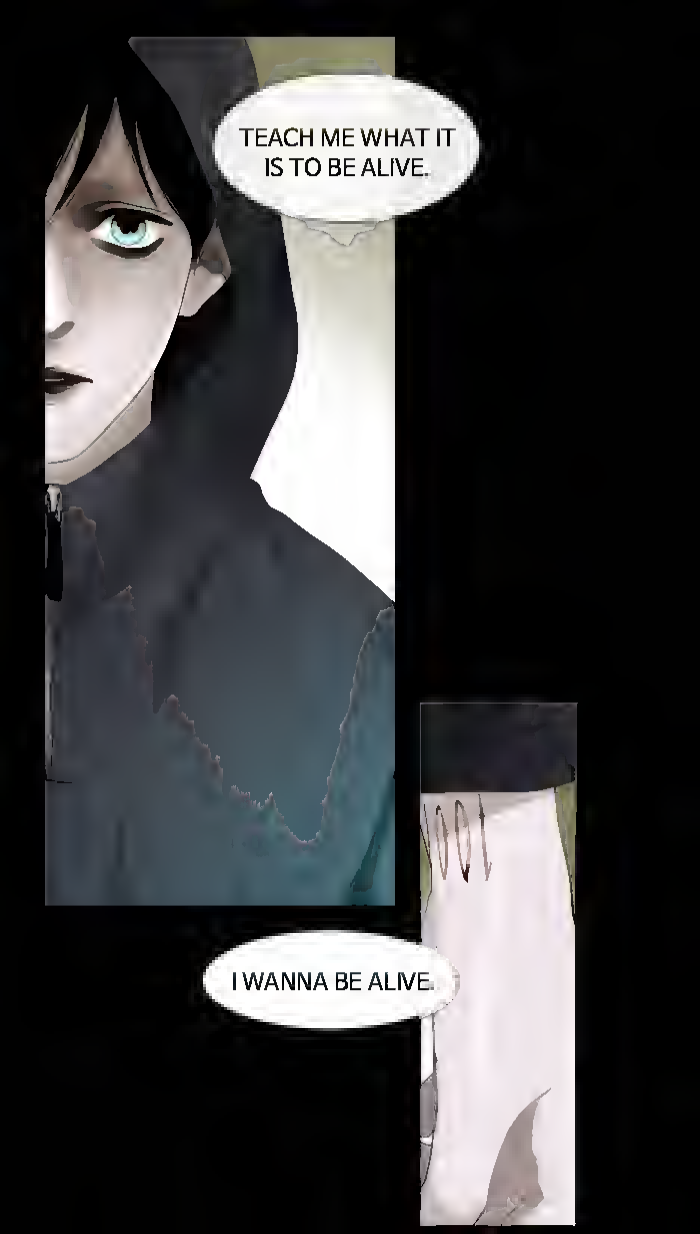
WOW!
WHAT KIND OF PARROT IS THIS?
WAKKA~

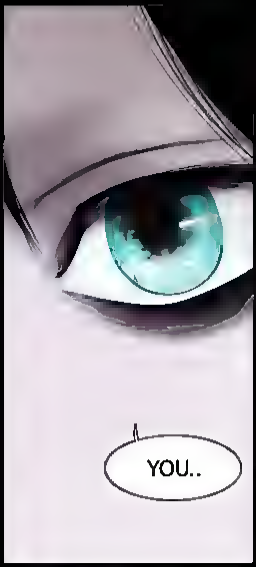
HE'S SO GOOD AT SPEAKING!
POKE!
AGH!
SQUAWK
I'M NOT JUST SOME PARROT, YOU IDIOT! HOW DARE YOU JUDGE ME!! YOU'RE JUST A PATHETIC HUMAN!
SQUAWK
WOOOW!! THIS PARROT'S INCREDIBLE!

COME INTO MY APARTMENT. WE CAN TALK MORE THERE, OKAY?
SMILE
DON'T IGNORE ME!!
.....
I WANT THAT BIRD TOO!!


THEN, JANE...

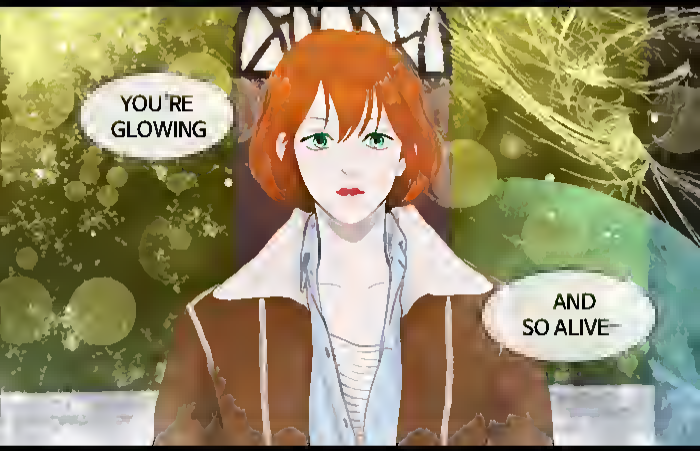
PLEASE...


TEACH ME WHAT IT IS TO BE ALIVE.
I WANNA BE ALIVE.


YOU..

HUH? GLOWING?
ME? HAH..
DOES HE LIKE ME?
HEHEHE
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? YOU SEEM PRETTY ALIVE TO ME...
HM-

NO, I'M DEAD.
SHAKE
SHAKE


YOU'RE GLOWING
AND SO ALIVE

I WANT TO BE LIKE YOU.

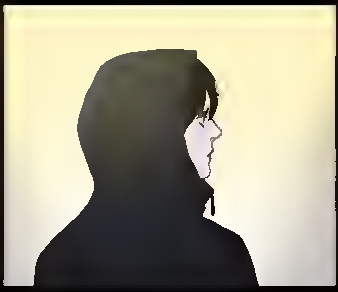
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, BUT ANYWAY..!!
CLA
SP

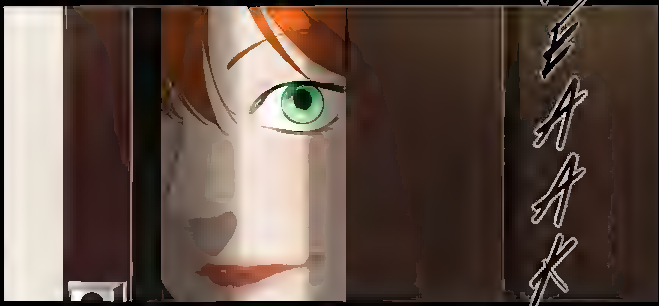
I'LL DO MY BEST TO HELP YOU!!!
THANK YOU.

RIGHT..?
WELL IF YOU'RE STAYING, I DON'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE
BUT ONLY UNTIL SPRING!
NOD
NOD

CAN WE GO INSIDE NOW?
NOD
HMPH!
ROY,
LET'S JUST STAY HERE UNTIL SPRING.
UGH!
YOU HATE THE COLD. ROY.

205
LALA~
LALA
YOU GO ON AHEAD
I'M JUST GONNA MAKE A QUICK CALL





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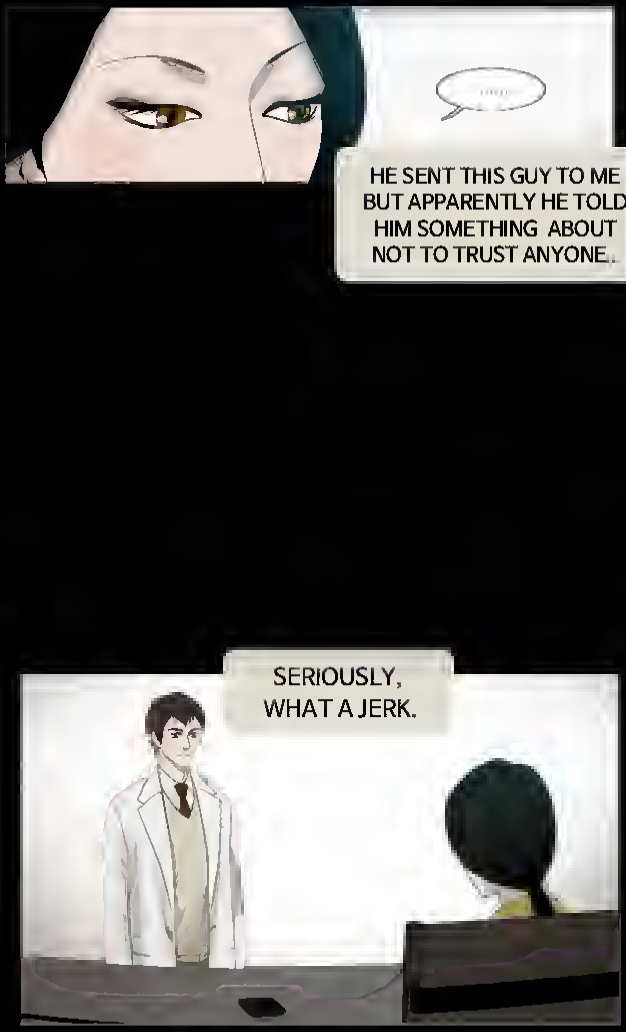
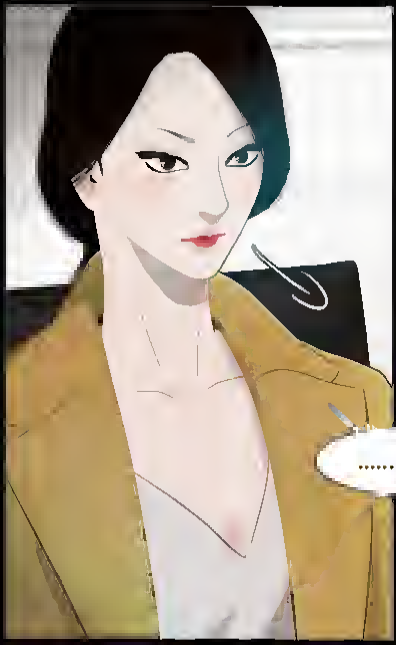
RIIIIING
RIIIIING ...

WHAT RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND SLOW DOWN.
I'M BUSY RIGHT NOW.
DON'T PRETEND LIKE YOU DON'T KNOW! ANYWAY, WHEN ARE YOU COMING OVER? ...YOU'VE GOTTA SEE THIS.
I'M TRYING TO STAY CALM RIGHT NOW, BUT THAT GUY SEEMS KINDA STRANGE.
MUMBLE
BUT WHO'S HUBERT?
HM

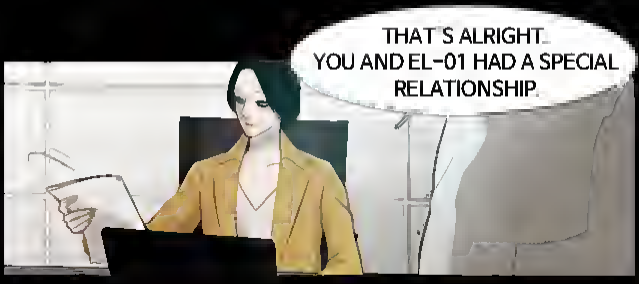
BEEP
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
SARAH!!
THIS IS AMAZING~~!!!
HE HE!!
WHAT?
SHOUT
I FEEL LIKE A HUGE STORY HAS JUST LANDED RIGHT IN MY LAP!!
SHOUT
JUST LIKE YOU SAID BEFORE AT THE BAR~!!!
@#$%#^
AGH!

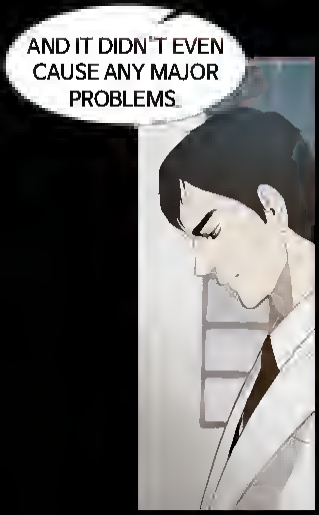

HE SENT THIS GUY TO ME BUT APPARENTLY HE TOLD HIM SOMETHING ABOUT NOT TO TRUST ANYONE..
SERIOUSLY, WHAT A JERK.

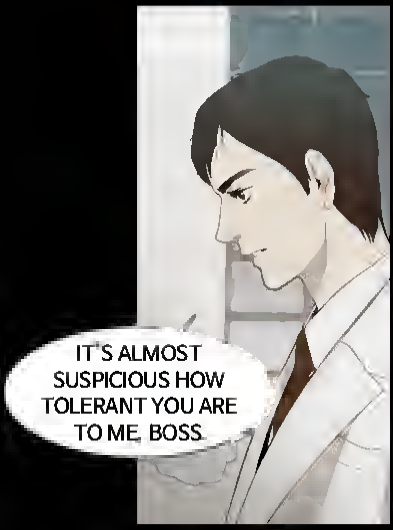

..... JANE

I'M WORKING NOW. TALK TO SOMEONE WHO'S NOT BUSY.
HE HE
HEY~ SARAH WHEN RE YOU GONNA COME OVER?
I'LL BE BUSY FOR A WHILE. I'LL TRY TO MAKE SOME TIME LATER, OKAY?
YOU'D BETTER HURRY!
GOTTA GO.
BEEP

LOOKS LIKE EVERYTHING'S GOING SMOOTHLY.
...SORRY. I SHOULDN'T HAVE TOLD HIM ANYTHING.

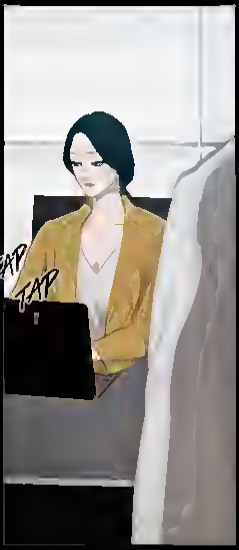

THAT'S ALRIGHT.
YOU AND EL-01 HAD A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP.


AND IT DIDN'T EVEN CAUSE ANY MAJOR PROBLEMS.


IT'S ALMOST SUSPICIOUS HOW TOLERANT YOU ARE TO ME, BOSS.

BECAUSE YOU'RE A VERY VALUABLE MEMBER HERE.
TAP
TAP
TAP

YOU'D BETTER GET GOING.
YOU'VE GOTTA KEEP AN EYE ON EL-01.
...YES, MA'AM.


TAP
TAP

TAP

ssssss

ssssss

"TOLERANT" HE SAYS...

THAT'S BECAUSE...

WHEW~
WE CAN KINDA RELAX NOW~
IT'S NOT EASY PERSUADING A PUPPET LIKE THAT. IT'S A GOOD THING JANE GOT HIM TO STAY.
LOOKS LIKE THE BOSS DIDN'T CHOOSE HER FOR NOTHING.
ZZZ

SHE AND HER OBSESSION WITH THE STORY! BRAVO!
THAT MAY BE SO, AND IF THE BOSS IS RIGHT, JANE WILL DO REALLY WELL.
SHE ALREADY OVERCAME THE FIRST CHALLENGE.
CLAP! CLAP!
BUT LARRY, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
DOES EL-01 SEEM LIKE HE S ALIVE OR NOT?

HOW WOULD I KNOW? I'M NOT A RESEARCHER.

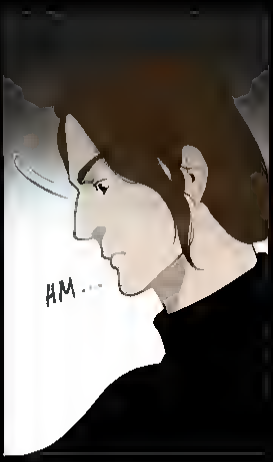
I'M JUST HERE AS A SECURITY GUARD.

AND DIDN'T THEY SEND HIM TO JANE TO FIND THAT OUT?

I GUESS. WELL, WHETHER HE'S ALIVE OR NOT, HE'S ONE AMAZING TEST SUBJECT.

THE RESEARCH TEAM IS ALL EXCITED BECAUSE THEY THINK HE MAY BE IMMORTAL.

BUT IT'S KIND OF STRANGE THAT THE BOSS HASN'T CLEARLY STATED THAT "EL-01 IS ALIVE" FOR THE RESULT OF THIS EXPERIMENT
YOU SAID YOURSELF THAT HE'S AN AMAZING SUBJECT. SO MAYBE SHE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT THE RESULTS
HM...
BUT THAT'S NOT THE BOSS I KNOW...
WHATEVER! THAT'S FOR YOU AND THE OTHER RESEARCHERS TO THINK ABOUT. I'M STARVING!
ALL THAT WORRYING MADE ME HUNGRY.
HUH!?
YOU DIDN'T EVEN DO ANYTHING. THOUGH


AM...

Winter Woods

STORY BY COSMOS

ART BY VAN JI

ASSISTANT HYENSEO LEE

I GUESS NOW WE'LL SEE

WHETHER HE'S REALLY ALIVE OR NOT...!